



NEWS RELEASE

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MAYOR BALLARD KICKS OFF KNOZONE SEASON

Knozone Program and Marion County Public Health Department Form Air Quality Partnership

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today was joined by Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department, in announcing that the City of Indianapolis will begin monitoring for increased levels of ground-level ozone now that warmer temperatures and longer days are here with the arrival of spring. Mayor Ballard and Dr. Caine offered tips on how Marion County residents can help maintain the City's air quality during Knozone season and all-year round.

"It's important for us all to work together to reduce air pollutants in our community," said Mayor Ballard. "The safety and health of Indianapolis residents drives my efforts to make Indianapolis the most sustainable and livable cities in the Midwest."

When City officials expect pollutants to exceed federal standards, the City will call a Knozone Action Day. On these days, it may be difficult for children, seniors and those with asthma or other medical problems to breathe.

"Clean air is an integral piece to a healthy community," said Dr. Caine. "By taking simple actions, such as reducing your vehicle idling and biking or walking instead of driving, residents can help the health of our community for years to come."

During this Knozone season, residents also may contribute by:

- Carpooling and combining errands
- Using public transportation
- Filling gas tanks and mowing after 6 p.m.
- Reducing the use of chemicals or paint that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

- Not burning trash or leaves
- Turning lights off when not in use

The City of Indianapolis offers a free e-mail notification service to alert those interested that a Knozone Action Day has been called. To receive email notification of Knozone Action Days, sign up at www.Knozone.com or call 327-4AIR.